



SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

FRANCIS HOPKINSON

1731 - 1791

Francis Hopkinson was the first student to enter the University of Pennsylvania, founded as the "College of Philadelphia" by his father and Benjamin Franklin. He traveled abroad and tried music and scientific experiments. He married Anne Borden, daughter of Judge Joseph Borden, and granddaughter of the founder of Bordentown. Hopkinson began to practice law by administering his wife's estate. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence. He authored the satiric poem "The Battle of Kegs". The New Jersey Legislature commissioned Hopkinson to engage the proper person to prepare the Great Seal of New Jersey and he employed Pierre Eugene du Simitiere. Hopkinson's descendants include a son, Joseph, who composed "Hail Columbia"; a grandson, Oliver, who was a prominent Philadelphia lawyer; a great-grandson, the 20th century novelist F. Hopkinson Smith.